

PREMATURE INFANTS—A Manual for Physicians—Second Edition—Ethel C. Dunham, M.D., Formerly Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Yale University School of Medicine; Director, Division of Research in Child Development, U.S. Children's Bureau. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc. 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N.Y., 1955. 459 pages, \$8.00.

This book is statistically weighted and this with an international flavor. It abounds in charts, tables and figures. There are many paragraphs which are the direct quotation of the opinions and experiences of others. Of the 459 pages in the book, there are 43 pages of references. Instead of being labeled a hand book, it should be classified as an encyclopedia of information concerning premature infants. The "amateur" trying to find a method of care for the premature, would be confused by the multitude of opinions and methods. The "expert" would be pleased with the amassed statistical data.

The book is divided into four parts. *Part one*: General Considerations. *Part two*: Clinical Considerations, where the bulk of the part is given over to abnormal conditions that affect, not only the premature, but any newborn. *Part three*: Public Health Considerations. *Part four*: This is an appendix of 43 pages, which is largely a plan to develop uniform statistics, plus some technical portions, such as technique of feeding and foot printing.

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THE PHARMACOPEIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPEIA)—Fifteenth Revision U.S.P. XV—By Authority of The United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. meeting at Washington, D.C., May 9 and 10, 1950. Official from December 15, 1955. 1178 pages, plus 52 pages of U.S.P. Convention information, \$10.00. Distributed by Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa.

The current edition (XV) of the United States Pharmacopeia will become "official" from December 15, 1955 on. The Pharmacopeia is now being revised on a five year basis, a reflection of the dynamic state of introducing new drugs. A considerable number of physicians and related scientists have participated in the preparation of this revision.

As a departure from past editions, the Category Dose (usual and range), and indication for External Use (if applicable) are given for each agent.

The number of new additions (drugs) still exceeds the deletions by 242 to 160. Unfortunately, one finds archaic carry-overs, such as ipecac, zinc stearate, boric acid, ammoniated mercury, clove oil, coal tar and aloe, are still included for no justifiable pharmacologic reason. Fortunately, English is the preferred title of each drug monograph, Latin having finally been relegated to second choice.

Most useful to pharmacists and laboratory workers is the section on general tests, processes and apparatus. The physician will find U.S.P. XV a valuable source of information on 838 drugs now approved by unbiased, essentially non-commercial reference sources.

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PROCTOLOGIC ANATOMY—Second Edition—R. V. Gorsch, A.B., M.D., F.I.C.S., F.A.P.S., D.A.B.P., Clinical Professor of Proctology, New York Polyclinic Medical School. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 310 pages, \$8.00.

This is a small book on proctologic anatomy, which is designed to bridge the gap between the essentials of pelvic anatomy and the requirements of the practicing proctologist. It is detailed and directed towards the pure specialist in surgery of this area. It is not an anatomy book which would be of value to one learning anatomy generally. It would be of relatively little use to the average practicing physician and I think it will have a very small select field of usefulness.

In this particular selected area it will be a valuable asset to the practicing proctologist. Unfortunately, the practicing proctologist who has spent sufficient time mastering his field will have garnered the essentials of this book in a more clinical way and will hardly require review of his anatomy in this particular fashion.

The illustrations are clear and semidiagrammatic in large measure with a few halftones. It is a book which would be valuable in giving a rapid course in proctology or one who wishes to learn anatomy of this area in a small, well done text. It is not a book which can be generally recommended to physicians for any good general anatomy book will contain all the information the average physician needs to know in this area and will be of wider usefulness to him.

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TEXTBOOK OF ENDOCRINOLOGY—Second Edition—Edited by Robert H. Williams, M.D., Executive Officer and Professor of Medicine, University of Washington Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1955. 776 pages, 175 figures, \$13.00.

This book is a modern discussion and evaluation of endocrinology, based on physiological and pathological precepts, which tends to disregard the eponyms and curiosities of endocrinology with which this subject was all too long associated. The first edition was highly recommended (CALIFORNIA MEDICINE, November 1950) and the same praise is extended to the second.

The revision brings up to date the diagnosis and treatment of the endocrinopathies and the use of hormone therapy in nonendocrine disorders. A large portion of the book has been rewritten, especially the chapters on the adrenals, ovaries, pancreas, parathyroid, neuroendocrinology and obesity. A new chapter has been added at the end of the book, summarizing principles of diagnosis and treatment and giving examples of the most useful hormone preparations.

A few minor criticisms can be made. For example, the new chapter would be made more practical by the inclusion of usual dosages and by detailing some of the trade names with their relative values. After rightfully decrying most height-weight tables, the author of the chapter on obesity falls into a like trap by recommending a table which measures women with shoes on (whether with flat or three-inch heels we do not know)!

Endocrinology is an extremely rapidly advancing field of medical science. Several thousand papers are published annually. This book does an excellent job of bringing the subject up to mid-1955 for the benefit of doctors and students alike.

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THE BODY FLUIDS—Basic Physiology and Practical Therapeutics—J. Russell Elkington, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and T. S. Danowski, M.D., Rensiehausen Professor of Research Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 626 pages, \$10.00.

The basic field of medicine with which this book deals is pertinent to clinical problems in all fields of medicine from ophthalmology to urology, from internal medicine to abdominal surgery or from obstetrics to pediatrics, as problems relating to the body fluids arise in all.

Students and physicians alike will find in it a great deal of information which will help both in understanding and treating many disorders dealt with daily in seeing patients; disorders, which in medical vernacular are called problems in "fluid, water, electrolyte, acid-base and/or osmotic" equilibria or metabolism. Researchers will find a great deal of well selected data and a very complete bibliography.

While admittedly knowledge is changing and still being rapidly acquired in this field, this is the most complete